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Examiner: Terrence R. Till
Group Art Unit: 1744

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 4-13 and 15 as being dependent on a rejected base claim and stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By the present amendment, claims 4, 13, and 15 have been canceled and rewritten in independent form as new claims 19, 20, and 21, respectively. The dependent claim 5 has been amended to depend from the new claim 19.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the Scalfani et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,146,434. By the present amendment, claims 1-3 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 14 and 16 remain in the application and have been amended to depend from claim 19.

Claims 17 and 18 remain in the application. These claims have been allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2-13-04 By: J. E. McGarry

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